

BWSC-NRD-2015-02

Natural Resource Damages Assessment and Restoration Program

Upper Mystic River Restoration

Response to Questions

Q. On Slide 11, “Eligible projects must be located in the Upper Mystic River (in the geographic focus area)”, can a project benefit the focus area without being located in it?

Q. On Slide 12, “Eligible projects must not restore water quality outside of the geographic focus area,” should it be “...only outside of the geographic focus area?”

A. The limits of the eligible Geographic Focus Area (GFA) are specified in Section 3.B. of the Grant Announcement and Application (GAA). As described in Section 3.C., eligible projects must restore water quality in the segment of the Mystic River as described in that section. At the applicants meeting, MassDEP stated that “Eligible Projects Must: Be located in the Upper Mystic River (in the geographic focus area).” For clarification, the GAA states that “Eligible Projects Must: Restore water quality in the geographic focus area” and the presentation has been corrected and the corrected version has been posted. A project may benefit the focus area without being located in it. The GAA and presentation state that “Eligible Projects Must Not: Restore water quality outside of the geographic focus area.” The GAA and presentation have been corrected to state that “Eligible Projects Must Not: Restore water quality solely outside of the geographic focus area.” The intent is these eligibility criteria is to ensure that the project restores the water quality in the segment of the Mystic River that was impacted. However, the project may be of sufficient scope to also restore water quality in a larger segment of the Mystic River that is outside of the GFA. There is no specified limit as to the distance of eligible projects relative to demonstrated water quality improvements in the GFA.

Q. Please clarify the Alewife end of the eligible section of the river.

The limits of the eligible Geographic Focus Area (GFA) are specified in Section 3.B. of the Grant Announcement and Application (GAA). As described in Section 3.C., eligible projects must restore water quality in the segment of the Mystic River as described in that section. MassDEP has determined that as described, it includes the area of the Mystic River to just below its confluence with Alewife Brook.

Q. Where can applicants get information regarding Environmental Justice designations?

A. Environmental Justice designations may be viewed at <http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/datalayers/cen2010ej.html>. This website provides links to the MassGIS datalayer, which is available to download, as well as PDF files by region. The direct link to the Boston Metro map is <http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/itd/services/massgis/boston-metro-ej-2010-map.pdf>.

Q. Does a restoration project need to address contamination by oil specifically?

A. No, a restoration project does not need to address contamination by oil specifically.

Q. Does the DEP expect a permit or similar evidence of project “approval” from other entities, e.g. MA DCR?

Q. Who is the contact at MA DCR that helps with partnerships?

A. Project partners that will be providing substantive contributions to the project through the work and cost plan (e.g. access, in-kind services) must provide letters of commitment indicating their willingness and ability to do so. Project partners that will be providing non-specific, general support for the project may provide letters of support. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) contact is:

Lisa J. Barstow
Office of External Affairs and Partnerships
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900 | Boston, MA 02114
617 626 4954

Q. Can the proposed project be under MS-4 obligations?

A. As described in Section 3.C., “Eligible Projects Must Not: Be subject to an independent, prior obligation to perform the project pursuant to statute, regulation, ordinance, consent decree, judgment, court order, permit condition or contract, or otherwise be required by federal, state, or local law, including but not limited to enforcement actions, unless funding such project would present a substantial restoration benefit to Mystic River resources, such as but not limited to:

a) Accelerating the pace of performance of the obligation, where such pace represents a calculable and substantial restoration benefit; or,

b) Increasing the natural resource benefits associated with performance obligation.

Q. How would an individual or partnership entity register with COMMBUYS?

A. Any entity (individual or company) may become a registered COMMBUYS user. The following job aid, produced by the Massachusetts Operation Services Division describes the process. Note that a Tax ID (SSN or EIN) is required. Also, COMMBUYS uses the United Nations Standard Product and Service Codes (UNSPSC) codes to identify goods and services. COMMBUYS also has a special code for Grants: 00-00-00. If you have any questions or concerns contact the COMMBUYS Help Desk at COMMBUYS@state.ma.us or call during normal business hours (8AM – 5PM Monday – Friday) at 1-888-627-8283 or 617-720-3197.

Job Aid: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/osd/commbuys/vendor-registration.pdf>

Recall that an applicant is not required to register as a vendor in order to submit an application. However, once a grant is awarded, the entity would be required to register as a vendor on COMMBUYS.

Q. Can DEP post other successful NRD Grant proposals awarded through the NRD Program that are similar to this Grant?

A. In 2014, MassDEP awarded two grant contracts for project applications that were submitted in response to the GAA for the Lower Mystic River Watershed Restoration (BWSC-NRD-2014-01). The two projects are: Mill Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Initiative from Chelsea Collaborative, Inc., and the Proposed Wetlands and Bank Resource Area Replication/Restoration from the Mystic Valley Development Commission. These may be accessed from <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/cleanup/nrd/nrd-restoration-funding-opportunities.html>.

Q. Does the Community Outreach Plan need to be a separate plan included in the grant application?

A. No. The Community Outreach Plan may be included as a discrete section or paragraph(s) of the Work and Cost Plan/Scope of Work, as long as it is clearly identified.